

EXOTIC
Thailand

KOH SAMUI



TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

SOUTHERN OFFICE : REGION 5

(CHUMPHON, RANONG, SURATTHANI)

5 TALAD MAI RD, MUANG, SURATTHANI

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FAX. (077) 282828

FREE COPY

KOH SAMUI

Koh Samui is situated in the Gulf of Thailand, 84 kilometers west of Surat Thani. It has a total area of 247 square kilometers. It is 21 kilometers wide and 26 kilometers long and has a ring road (Taweeratpakdee Rd.) 50 kilometers long. One third of the total area is an open plain surrounding a mountain.

There are three seasons on Koh Samui; rainy season from May to October; cool season from November to January (Monsoon season); summer is between February and April.

Getting There

From Bangkok you can travel by road and rail, leaving the capital in the evening or at night and arriving in Surat Thani the next morning. Then you may take a boat from Paknam Ta Tong pier to Koh Samui or alternatively use the car ferry from Amphoe Don Sak, Surat Thani.

Travelling by coach (11 hours travelling time) Below is a list of companies operating between Bangkok and Surat Thani

1. Government operated coaches (normal)
Tel : (02) 4345567-8
2. Krung Siam Tour, Tel : (02) 2822118, 2821211
3. Government operated coaches
(air-conditioned) Tel : (02) 4351199
4. Maung Tai Ltd., Tel : (02) 4127715
5. Udomrat Tour Ltd., Tel : (02) 2241840
6. Sapon Tour Ltd., Tel : (02) 2812882, 2821943
7. Thai Dem Rot Ltd., Tel : (02) 2812283
8. Nakorn Sri Tour Ltd., Tel : (02) 4355033, 4355025
9. Choke Anan Tour, Tel : (02) 4355027-9

Bangkok-Surat Thani-Koh Samui service is available on 1) and 8) only.

Travelling by Air

Bangkok Airways has return services from Bangkok to Koh Samui ten times daily. Travelling time is 1 hour 10 minutes. The fare is 2,080 baht plus 100 baht airport tax. Enquiries and reservation can be made at Bangkok Airways, Tel : (02) 2534014-6 and at Koh Samui (077) 425010, 425012, 425029, 425030

Thai Airways International has flights from Bangkok to Surat Thani 3 times daily. Travelling time is 1 hour. The fare is 1,710 baht plus 30 baht airport tax. Enquiries and reservation can be made to Thai Airways International Tel (02) 2333810, 2800070-80, and Surat Thani office Tel : (077) 272610, 273355, 273710.

Travelling by Rail

There are trains operating from Bangkok to Phunphin station in Surat Thani everyday but we recommend the 18.30, 19.45 and 22.35hr services from Bangkok, arriving at Phunphin 05.34, 06.42 and 07.20 a.m. respectively.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Tel : (02) 2237010, 2237020 (Bangkok Main Station)

Getting Across to Koh Samui

(Subject to time and price changes)

Express Boat

From Paknam Ta Tong Pier (Surat Thani Down-town) to Na Torn Pier (Koh Samui)

| Departure times | Arrival times |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 08.00 hr. | 10.30 hr. |
| 14.30 hr. | 17.00 hr. |

The return trip :-

| Departure times | Arrival times |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 07.15 hr. | 10.00 hr. |
| 14.30 hr. | 17.00 hr. |

Ticket Price is 105 baht or 70 baht for members.

For more information contact Song Serm Travel Center Co.,Ltd. 121/7 Hau Chang Bridge, Payathai, Bangkok Tel : (02) 2529654, 2500768

Koh Samui 3

Paknam Ta Tong branch Tel : (077) 285124-7 Koh Samui branch Tel: (077) 421228, 421319-9 FAX (077) 421544

Night Boat

From Ban Don Pier.

Leaving Surat Thani 23.00 hr and arriving at Koh Samui 05.00 hr. The fares are 70 baht each for the upper deck and 50 baht each for the lower deck.

Car ferry

Don Sak ferry port to Samui ferry port:-

| Departure times | Arrival times |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 8.00 hr. | 9.30 hr. |
| 10.00 hr. | 11.30 hr. |
| 12.00 hr. | 13.30 hr. |
| 14.00 hr. | 15.30 hr. |
| 17.00 hr. | 18.30 hr. |

Samui ferry port to Don Sak ferry port :-

| Departure times | Arrival times |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 7.30 hr. | 09.00 hr. |
| 10.00 hr. | 11.30 hr. |
| 12.00 hr. | 13.30 hr. |
| 14.00 hr. | 15.30 hr. |
| 16.00 hr. | 17.30 hr. |

Prices (one way)

40 baht per person

180 baht for a car and 1 driver

200 baht for a van and 1 driver

300-400 baht for tour buses

For more information contact Sea Trans Travel office, 1091/157 Metro Shopping Center, Bangkok Tel : (02) 2510543, 2535307-8, or Samui Tour Co.,Ltd. (Surat Thani (077) 282352, Don Sak pier (077) 371205, and Tong Yang pier, Samui (077) 421367).

There are also buses from Samui Tour Co.,Ltd., Surat Thani to Samui ferry port. The fares, including that of the ferry, are 90 baht for air conditioned bus and 70 baht for normal bus.

Koh Samui 4

Getting around the Island

There are mini-buses running frequently around the island. Fares vary according to the distance travelled.

1. Na Torn pier/ferry port to Ban Mae Nam (Ban Bor Phud) 15-20 baht
2. Na Torn pier/ferry port to Ban Plai Lam (Big Buddha) 20 baht
3. Na Torn pier/ferry port to Chaweng Beach 25 baht
4. Na Torn pier/ferry port to Lamai Beach 15-20 baht.

There are motorcycles, taxis available at the ports. There are also cars, jeeps, and motorcycle for hire around the island.

Places of interest on Koh Samui

Beaches

Koh Samui contains many beaches, but the most popular beaches are Chaweng and Lamai. There are also pleasant beaches at Bang Rak bay, Ban Bor Phud, Tong Ta Kian bay, Na Torn, Tong Yang and Cheng Mon. There are hotels and bungalows of various prices at most beaches.

Falls

There are Hin Lad and Na Maung falls, 3 kms. and 14 kms. respectively from Na Torn pier. These are popular spots, especially during the rainy season when there is plenty of water.

Big Buddha

Also known as "Pra Buddha Kodom". It is situated near Koh Farn which is a meditation center where accommodation is available for those who want to meditate.

Pra Tat Hin Ngu (Holy Shrine)

Built in 1945, it was visited by their Majesties the King and Queen on 24 April 1962. The villagers have taken the date as a day to celebrate the pagoda ever since.

Lam Sor Pagoda

Golden in colour, it was built by one of Koh Samui's most respected monks and is situated by the sea.

The Buddha's footprint at Khoa Lay

There is no record of a footprint image construction. It is situated at Khoa Lay, in the Maret district.

Hin Ta-Hin Yai

Strangely shaped rocks at Lamai bay. A local story tells of an old couple whose ship was wrecked in the bay. Their bodies were washed ashore to create the rocks.

Samui's Butterfly Garden

Na Tian butterfly garden is situated at the bottom of a hill south of the island. It was built on 20 Rai of land 5 kms. from Hin Ta-Hin Yai. Apart from the numerous species of butterflies on display, there are also other interesting features in the garden.

1. Bee House A Thai style house which allows the visitors to observe the activities of bees. Fresh honey is always available here.

2. Insect Museum Rare insects from Thailand and other countries are displayed here.

3. A Coral Reef This can be viewed from a glass-bottomed boat.

4. A Viewpoint Boasts a restaurant selling local delicacies and fresh seafood.

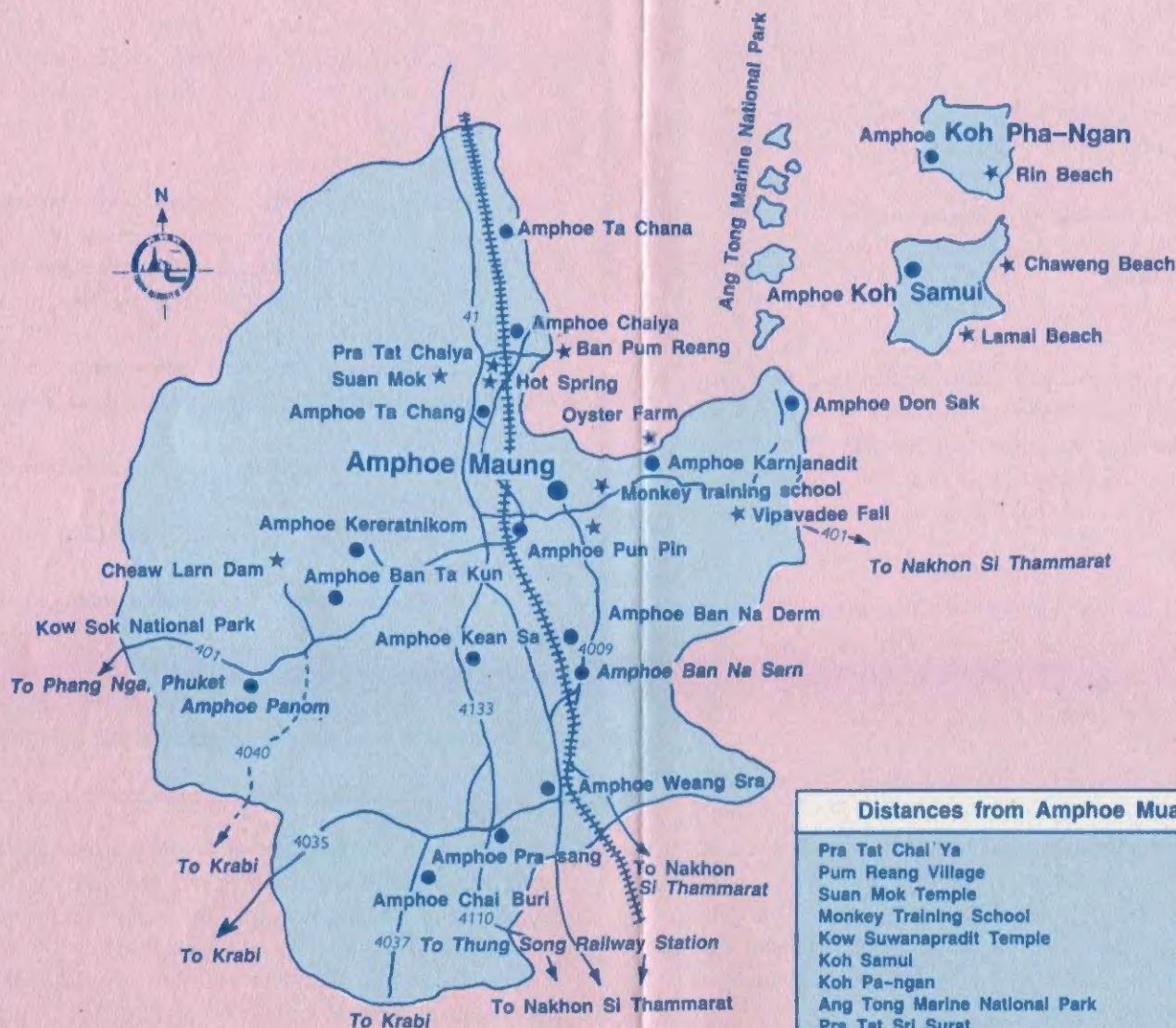
Samui's Monkey Center

This is situated at the entrance to Kow Pra village near Bor Phudjunction. There are 4 monkeys and elephants shows daily.

Accommodations

There are various types of accommodation dotted around the island. Prices are from 600 baht per day to 10,000 baht in a luxurious hotel. The average prices are between 300-1,500 baht. If you would like a list of places to stay, contact the TAT head office in Bangkok, TAT Southern Office : Region 5 5 Talad Mai Road, Amphoe Muang, Surat Thani, Tel : (077) 281828, 288818-9 Fax : (077) 282828, or TAT. Tourist Information Center, Koh Samui Tel. (077) 420504

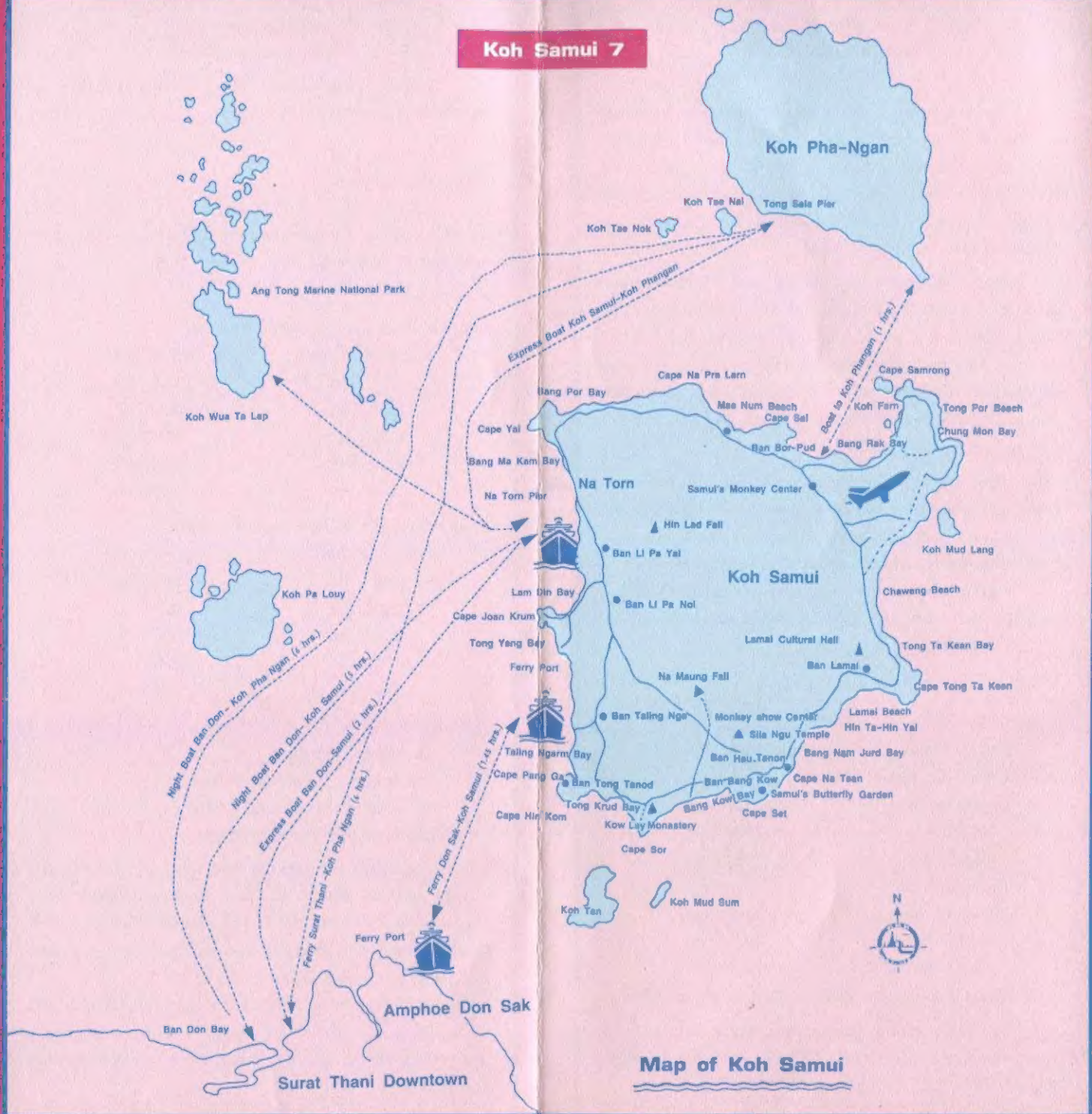
Map of Surat Thani



Distances from Amphoe Muang

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Pra Tat Chai Ya | 54 km |
| Pum Reang Village | 60 km |
| Suan Mok Temple | 50 km |
| Monkey Training School | 11 km |
| Kow Suwanapradit Temple | 60 km |
| Koh Samui | 84 km |
| Koh Pa-ngan | 104 km |
| Ang Tong Marine National Park | 70 km |
| Pra Tat Sri Surat | 6 km |
| Cheaw Larn Dam | 84 km |
| Kow Sok National Park | 110 km |
| Vipavadee-Rangsit Fall | 38 km |

Koh Samui 7



Map of Koh Samui